

A NEW CRUCIFEROUS WEED, *CALEPINA*
IRREGULARIS, IN VIRGINIA

S. F. BLAKE

IN MARCH 1955 Miss Jennie S. Jones, seed analyst supervisor of the Division of Plant Industry, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Immigration, at Richmond, sent me for identification a fresh specimen of a flowering crucifer which had appeared that spring on the farm of L. Wesley Southworth at Kidds Fork, Caroline County, in central eastern Virginia, between Washington and Richmond. It proved to be *Calepina irregularis* (Asso) Thell. (often called *C. corvini* (All.) Desv.), a Mediterranean and Near East species which apparently has not before been found growing in either North or South America. Good fruiting specimens were collected about a month later.

The plant was widely scattered over an alfalfa field two and one-half acres in extent. Since the initial discovery the infestation has been reduced to a fraction of the original by hand roguing and planting to a row crop, but the weed has spread to a slight extent into an adjacent field. In February 1957 all plants visible in both fields were removed by hand by a crew from the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, but in April specimens were still to be found, and some were collected for distribution to herbaria. In April the plant was also found in an alfalfa field about 3 miles away on the farm of J. R. Southworth, brother of L. W. Southworth. It has been learned that the same hay baler was used on the two farms, and it is supposed that the seed was transported in this way. A rather careful survey of that part of Caroline County has disclosed no other infestations.

The method of introduction of this species is not known. No fruits of *Calepina* were found in the samples representing the alfalfa seed planted by Mr. Southworth (which came from Kansas), and, in fact, no *Calepina* fruits have ever been found in seeds tested at Richmond. However, Mrs. Grace Cole Fleischman of Los Angeles, senior seed analyst of the Department of Agriculture of California, has found the seeds, or rather the indehiscent fruits, in samples of *Phalaris canariensis* imported from Morocco and Turkey. She writes me that during the '40's